DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 479 107 EC 309 701

TITLE	Success Stories, 2002: Making a Difference One Story at a Time.
INSTITUTION	Southwest Educational Development Lab., Austin, TX. National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research.
SPONS AGENCY	National Inst. on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (ED/OSERS), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	66p.; See ED 451 654 for an earlier version.
CONTRACT	H133A990008-A
AVAILABLE FROM	National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 211 East Seventh St., Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701-3281. Tel: 800-266-1832 (Toll Free); Fax: 512-476-2286; e-mail: ncddr@sedl.org; Web site: http://www.ncddr.org. For full text: http://www.ncddr.org/du/success2002/ SS2002.pdf.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Education; Cultural Differences; *Disabilities; Elementary Secondary Education; *Grants; *Information Dissemination; Information Services; Marketing; *Program Effectiveness; *Rehabilitation; Success
IDENTIFIERS	*National Institute on Disability Rehab Research

ABSTRACT

This booklet contains accounts of 41 successes realized by organizations receiving grants from the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDDR) as examples of how NIDRR has experienced success in the following areas: (1) overcoming an identified dissemination "barrier"; (2) reaching new target audiences with needed information; (3) addressing linguistic, cultural, and cognitive diversity among audiences; (4) applying new social marketing techniques that work; (5) achieving a unique impact through a specific dissemination activity; and (6) obtaining individual benefits through utilization of disseminated information. The booklet also includes staff and grantee recognitions and a "Who's in the News" section focusing on media attention reported by grantees in 2002. Each success "story" is told in a brief summary including the name and location of the organization and contact information. (DB)

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ED 479 107

Success Stories 2002

Published By
Southwest Educational Development Laboratory

2003

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research

Success Stories

2002

Making a difference, one story at a time

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF DISABILITY RESEARCH

SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY
SEDL
Building Knowledge to Support Learning

A project funded by the NIDRR

Success Stories 2002

highlights a variety
of successes
realized by
NIDRR grantees
in their dissemination
and utilization efforts
during 2002.

This issue includes three areas:

- Highlights of Accomplishments
- Who's in the News
- NIDRR Grantee and Staff Recognition

Cover Photo printed with permission of Northwestern University Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center and Prosthetic Research Laboratory, Chicago, Illinois.
See related success story on p. 28.

Success Stories 2002

Background

On December 19, 2002, the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research sent out an invitation to the contact person of each NIDRR project soliciting submissions for *Success Stories 2002*.

The deadline for submissions was February 1, 2003. Seventy-one success stories were submitted, and of those forty-nine were selected for inclusion in this product.

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Success Stories 2002

Introduction

Success Stories 2002 highlights examples of how NIDRR-funded projects have experienced successes in one or more of the following areas:

- overcoming an identified dissemination "barrier"
- reaching new target audiences with needed information
- addressing linguistic, cultural, and cognitive diversity among audiences
- applying new Social Marketing techniques that work
- achieving a unique impact through a specific dissemination activity
- obtaining individual benefits through utilization of disseminated information

These categories have been used to select and organize success stories for the 2002 report.

In addition, *Success Stories 2002* includes Staff and Grantee Recognitions that were reported and included in issues of the NCDDR's *The Research Exchange* in 2002.

Also included is the Who's in the News section focusing on media attention reported by grantees in 2002. Submitted items were also included in *The Research Exchange*.

NIDRR grantees have provided a variety of successes to include in *Success Stories 2002*. The NCDDR encourages you to seek out additional information on success stories in this issue by following the Web link or contacting the person at the end of each story.

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Success Stories

2002

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Success Stories 2002

Highlights of Accomplishments

Section A.

Overcoming an Identified Dissemination "Barrier"

A1

The Farmers with Arthritis Project of the **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)** was able to increase dissemination while cutting costs in 2002.

When a financial challenge at the University of Missouri-Columbia threatened to curtail the number of presentations provided by the Farmers with Arthritis Project, the project came up with a cost-effective solution — the "presentation in a tube."

The "presentation in a tube" turns what was once a 6-foot-by-4-foot display that required three boxes and much assembly into a 6'x 4' laminated poster that can be rolled up and mailed in a tube. The MARRTC currently has six such presentations.

Due to the new easier to handle displays, the MARRTC has been able to share their information with many additional audiences, including Missouri Regional Arthritis Centers, extension specialists throughout the state, Department of Health agencies, hospital rural nurse practitioners and Chambers of Commerce.

For more information, contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

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A2

Judi Rogers is a disabled mom, activist and author. She is also a staff member at Through the Looking Glass at the **National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities**.

Trained as an occupational therapist, Rogers specializes in developing adaptive baby care equipment as well as pregnancy and birthing issues for women with disabilities. Rogers helps families develop solutions and a sense of connection, bringing the transforming supports and strengths of the disability community to parents with disabilities, family by family. Increasingly, she has influenced health care practice on the local and national level, through her networking ability and commitment to improved access for women with disabilities.

Because of all of her hard work, she was selected from 463 nominees to earn the nation's highest honor for community health leadership: the 2002 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

For more information, contact Paul Preston, Project Co-Director, at ppreston@lookingglass.org or (510) 848-4445.

A3

In 2002, the **New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center** at Boston Medical Center was able to provide 23 people with spinal cord injury with free Internet access in their homes through their television set.

With support form the Microsoft Corporation, participants received free refurbished MSN TV boxes (a newer form of Internet technology that allows a user to connect to the Internet using their TV set as the monitor) and six-months of free service. After at least six-months of use, 78% of participants felt that Internet access had positively affected their lives.

The most important impact, reported by the majority, was that Internet access improved their quality of life and emotional well-being ("It makes me happier...I've gotten more interested in what's going on").

Other important benefits reported by many participants were social connection ("I share more than through other forms [of communication]. I share intimacy, share problems and losses...it helps unload frustration"), ease of access to information ("Anything I'm interested in, I can look up...I don't get all stressed out"), and receiving high quality, relevant information for their lives ("The more I look, the more I find. The more I find, the more I learn. The more I learn the 'more better' my life becomes").

For more information, contact Bethlyn Vergo Houlihan, MSW, MPH, Program Manager, at bvergo@bu.edu or (617) 426-4447 x20.

A4

When a group of NIDRR grantees realized that few venues existed through which research findings can be communicated to non-researchers — such as people with disabilities, their family members, service organization's staff, policy makers, and others — in a low-cost format, widely available to a diverse audience, they decided to do something about it.

In 2002, the **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Health & Wellness Consortium** was a co-sponsor of a number of Web casts hosted by the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) project at the Institute of Rehabilitation Research.

Other NIDRR Grantees who have co-sponsored the Web casts are the Research Information on Independent Living (RIIL), Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Managed Care and Disability, and the Disability Law Resource Project.

For a list, or to view Web casts from 2002, visit the ILRU Web Cast Archives: **http://www.ilru.org/online/archive/index.html**

Section B.

Reaching New Target Audiences With Needed Information

B1

Promoting an accessible assistive technology center in the community is not always an easy task, and finding the populations to best serve goes along with that responsibility.

By offering access three times a week in three-hour increments to the technology center, or "Open Lab," at the **Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)**, members of the community are invited to use the computer training center free-of-charge to better their computer skills, scan pictures, send email or just surf the Internet.

Through the "Open Lab," the ATRC served over 1,300 people in 2002, of which an estimated 56% have disabilities. Providing access to AT equipment and technology has served as a gateway for additional outreach services to many of these customers.

Some results of offering this free access to the local community include people re-establishing contact with loved ones, finding employment opportunities, housing, rehabilitation networks, and helping individuals with social skills and new friendships.

ATRC's "Open Lab" has become a bridge for reaching a very specific population in the Hawaiian community which otherwise may not have been served.

For more information, contact Michael T. Sunnarborg, Director of Training, at michael@atrc.org or (808) 532-7116.

B2

In 2002, the **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)** Information Dissemination Project partnered with the Arthritis Foundation Central Missouri Branch and the University of Missouri Athletics Department to develop a selection

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of animated warm-up exercises for the MARRTC Web site dealing with the national campaign, "Play It Safe."

The national campaign, by the Arthritis Foundation, is designed to prevent sports injuries, which research shows can lead to the development of osteoarthritis. Posting this information with the animated warm-up exercises to the MARRTC Web site, which receives about 140,000 hits per month, made this information available to a much wider audience.

Following a news release about the MARRTC Web site article and animation, it was then featured as the top article on October 24, 2002, on HealthScout, a respected health information Web site that receives more than 1.2 million unique users monthly.

For more information, contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

B3

In the past year, the **Models of Inclusion in Child Care** project has disseminated information about successful strategies and practices that combine child care services with services from other agencies — such as mental health and early intervention.

By presenting at a variety of meetings, including the Oregon Child Care Summit, Annual Symposium of NACCRA (National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency) ,and the Training Institutes on Developing Local Systems of Care for Children and Adolescents with Emotional Disturbances and their Families (Washington, DC), the Models of Inclusion in Child Care staff found audiences made up of some of the professionals who consider the future of services for children with mental health needs in the state.

The project has also conducted workshops for professionals working in the fields of child care and special education.

For more information, contact Jennifer Bradley, Project Manager, at bradleyj@pdx.edu or (503) 725-4170.

B4

In October 2002, the University of Illinois at Chicago **(UIC) National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability (NRTC)** presented its first live Web broadcast as part of its Self-Determination Workshop Series. The 90-minute Webcast, "Using the Internet to Promote Self-Determination & Emotional Well-Being," addressed ways in which Internet technology can enhance self-determination in personal life management; using the Internet to organize support networks and advocacy groups; and the Internet as an employment resource.

One hundred twenty three registered to view the live Webcast, which included real-time open captioning to accommodate persons with hearing impairments.

Registrants were provided with numerous resources, including Webcast handouts and related links, prior to the event, as well as the opportunity to submit questions to the presenters on a specially prepared Web page.

For more information, contact Edie Bamberger, at bamberg@psych.uic.edu or (312) 422-8180, x14. To view the event, go to: **http://www.psych.uic.edu/uicnrtc/** and click on the "Self-Determination Webcast" link.

B5

The **National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities** at Through the Looking Glass has developed a chapter on parents with disabilities for the *2002 Parents Guide*.

The NRC collaborated with the University of California Berkeley Center for Community Wellness that produced the guide. The chapter includes specific resources and advice for parents with disabilities, and links to the NRC's toll free numbers and Web site.

The Guide has been translated into Spanish, and will soon be available in Chinese. The *Parents Guide* has been distributed to over 10,000 families in California through the California Children and Families Commission.

For more information, contact Paul Preston, Project Co-Director, at ppreston@lookingglass.org or (510) 848-4445.

B6

The **North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)** provides training to other professionals to help expand the use of assistive technology for people with disabilities.

Treva Haynes, Assistive Technology Specialist for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf-Blind population conducted an assistive technology (AT) workshop for the certified nursing assistants working in home health care agencies in Mitchell, Yancey, and Avery Counties. The workshop included demonstration of devices such as: amplified telephone, Pocket Talker, door-bells with strobe light, and smoke detector with strobe light.

During the workshop, the AT Specialist learned that all 172 participants have at least one patient in their caseloads who has hearing or visual impairment and can benefit from some types of assistive listening devices.

For more information, contact Yeu-Li Yeung, Consumer Resource Specialist, at ylyeung@ncatp.org or (919) 850-2787.

B7

The **North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)** aided a brother and sister who were born deaf to more fully and safely participate in work on their farm and in community life. The siblings were each interested in getting a driver's license, but their parents were fearful of their not being able to hear and react to emergency sirens.

Treva Haynes informed the parents that persons who are deaf can drive safely especially when assisted with a device called "vehicle alert." This device is mounted near the dashboard and flashes when the receiver picks up siren sounds.

For more information, contact Yeu-Li Yeung, Consumer Resource Specialist, at ylyeung@ncatp.org or (919) 850-2787.

B8

Imagine for a moment living without a computer, e-mail, or the Internet; that is the situation for many individuals with a cognitive disability. The *Voyager* suite of products is designed to enable individuals with cognitive disabilities to access everyday technology; the suite includes a simplified computer interface, mouse training, picture-based Internet browsing, and a picture/auditory e-mail system for non-readers.

The NIDRR project, **Pocket Voyager: Making Palmtop Computers Accessible to Individuals with Mental Retardation**, shared this new technology with people with cognitive disabilities. Martin Luther Homes — an adult service agency for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Southern Colorado - has incorporated the *Voyager* suite into their new community-based training center.

Residential service provider Cheyenne Village also has utilized the *Voyager* suite in order to provide each resident with his or her own picture-based Internet "bookmarks" and favorite sites, as well as a picture-based e-mail address book.

"I just want all of you to know how enriching this is for our family, and I want to thank you for your important roles in making this technology available to the community of individuals with intellectual disabilities, including of course, my son Jay. His life – and ours – will simply never be the same," said Ann Turnbull.

For more information, contact Nathan Fisk, at nfisk@ablelinktech.com or (719) 592-0347.

B9

The **Region X Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center** has just completed its first year. During 2002, this project provided a number of services. They conducted 249 public awareness activities. They responded to technical assistance calls 7,243 times. They

disseminated 31,539 materials, of which four quarterly newsletters and ten electronic informational bulletins were included. The Region X DBTAC hosted a Web site with 15,228 visits. In addition, through this project, a Regional Advisory Council was established, focused outreach to Native American communities was provided and a partnership was formed with the U.S. Forest Service and Timberline Lodge to create an accessible entrance.

For more information, contact Lynnae Ruttledge, Director, at ruttledg@ohsu.edu or (503) 494-6747.

B10

In 2002, the **Rehabilitation Research Engineering Center on Communication Enhancement (AAC-RERC)** collaborated with the Kornreich Assistive Technology Center to provide a series of free Web-only programs on issues in augmentative/alternative communication (AAC). Accessible from any Internet-enabled computer, the five Webcasts were viewed by as many as 500 participants. The Webcasts are archived and available for viewing.

For more information, contact Mitzi M. May, at mitzi.may@duke.edu or (919) 681-9983.

B11

The **Research and Training Center on Community Integration of Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury** at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, has developed a peer mentoring program for individuals with TBI and their family members. The program is a collaborative effort with the Brain Injury Association of NY State (BIANYS). In 2002, this program was disseminated to the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey for use. The efforts of this RTC have directly impacted the lives of hundreds of individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families in the two states.

For more information, contact Mary Hibbard, Research Director, at mary.hibbard@mssm.edu or (212) 659-9374.

B12

In May 2002, the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports** published a research report titled *Employers' Views of Workplace Supports* — developed from interviews with 46 companies across the country.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Workforce Preparation bought 3,000 of the monographs and *Study Guide for Human Resource Managers* to send to their local chamber members. Because of this product, businesses are learning why employers should tap into this talent and promote individuals with disabilities.

For more information, contact Valerie Brooke, Director of Training, at vbrooke@mail1.vcu.edu or (804) 828-1873.

B13

Since 2000, **Resolving ADA Employment Discrimination Charges** has been conducting research on the ADA Title I enforcement process and disseminating the results of its findings to numerous types of target audiences.

In 2002, the project team wrote a series of non-academic, easy-to-read fact sheets and information guides about the research findings. One of the guides has been translated into Spanish. Over 700 disability, government, and legal organizations as well as media-related organizations and outlets received hard copies of the fact sheets and guides.

For more information, or to access the fact sheets and information guides, visit the project's Web site: **http://www.ADAinsights.org**

B14

In 2002, the **Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health** redesigned its entire Web site, with the idea of attracting parents and making materials available for dissemination to a very large audience.

During the year, the site registered more than 96,000 unique visits. The Web site has received national attention from a variety of sources, most prominently from two magazine articles. The Summer 2002 issue of *America's Family Support Magazine* (readership 37,395) featured a review of the Web site in it's "Surf's Up" column. In part, the review read: "One could spend days trying to collect a list of Web resources as extensive as those found here, or one could simply bookmark the RTC site." The RTC's Web site was also featured in "Children's mental health: Online resource guide" which accompanied an article on children's mental health that appeared in the February 2003 issue of *Parents* magazine. *Parents* has a circulation of more than 2,200,000.

For more information, contact Donna Fleming, at flemingd@pdx.edu or (503) 725-8313.

B15

In December 2002, Thomas Golden, a contributor to the **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Economic Research on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities**, attended and participated in a closed summit conducted on the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Golden shared research, findings and experiences of the RRTC focusing on transition planning for youth with disabilities and employment prevalence data for people with disabilities that should be considered as the current administration develops their proposal for reauthorization of both pieces of legislation.

For more information, contact Thomas Golden, Project Director, at tpg3@cornell.edu or (607) 255-2731.

B16

A *Field Guide for People with Disabilities* to navigate the HMO grievance and appeals processes under Medicare regulations was produced in 2002 by the **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Managed Care and Disability**. Over 800 copies have

been distributed in hard print and permission has been granted to three rehabilitation hospitals to reprint the guide.

For more information, contact Sue Palsbo, Training Director, at susan.e.palsbo@medstar.net or (202) 466-1904.

B17

Each year, the **Southeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center** designs a multi-day meeting that maximizes learning, skill building and group interaction. The 12th annual meeting of the Southeast DBTAC's ADA Leadership Network took place at the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi from December 11-14, 2002.

Fifty-five members, representing 97 State and Local affiliates, gathered together to enhance their knowledge and skills regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessible information technology in educational settings.

For more information, contact Shelley Kaplan, Project Director, at sedbtac@catea.org or (404) 385-0636.

B18

A major goal of the NIDRR project, **Shake It Up for Alcohol and Substance Use Reduction: Health Promotion and Capacity Building for Persons with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries**, is to promote independence and healthy living. In 2002, this project held an intervention after which two participants who were not driving before the intervention began driving again. One has moved into his own apartment. Moreover, all of the intervention's participants self-report that they plan to pursue more recreational activities as a result of participating in "Shake It Up."

These preliminary results show that the intervention strategy positively affected the lives of those who participated.

For more information, contact Sarah Everhart Skeels, at Sarah_Everhart@Brown.edu or (401) 444-1876.

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Section C.

Addressing Linguistic, Cultural, and Cognitive Diversity Among Audiences

C1

To serve a population whose primary language is Spanish, the **Great Lakes Disability Business Technical Assistance Center** partnered with other collaborators to translate a number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) related technical assistance documents into Spanish in 2002.

The information has been made available for viewing and downloading from their Web site: **http://www.adagreatlakes.org/spanish/spmain.htm**. The Center's Web site receives over 200 hits per month on the translated Web pages and numerous inquires via email for additional information.

For more information, see: **http://www.adagreatlakes.org/spanish/spmain.htm** or contact Robin Jones, Project Director, at guiness@uic.edu or (312) 996-1059.

C2

From 1998-2001, the **Missouri TeleRehabilitation Training Program** trained 70 rural mental health providers using state-of-the-art video teleconferencing. Once trained, their contact information was included on a page of the project's Web site.

In the last three months of 2002 – more than a year after the NIDRR grant-funded program ended – the Missouri TeleRehabilitation Training Center Web site was averaging nearly 1,110 hits per month and the page listing the rural mental health providers in Missouri received an average of 162 hits per month.

Stephanie Reid-Arndt, a clinical assistant professor in the University of Missouri-Columbia Department of Health Psychology, said the list of trained mental health providers from the TeleRehabilitation

Training Center Web site has been an indispensable resource for the department's clinic.

"Given that a large number of our clients have a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI), it is particularly gratifying to know that the health care providers identified on this Web site have specialized training, which better enables them to address specific issues that may arise among individuals with a history of TBI," Reid-Arndt said.

For more information, contact Larry D. Nossaman, Senior Information Specialist, at nossamanl@health.missouri.edu or (573) 884-2899.

C3

In 2002, the **Pacific Disability Business Technical Assistance Center** cosponsored the first Regional Asian/Pacific Islanders with Disabilities Conference in the nation. Joined by the National Asian Pacific American BAR Association, the Consortium for Health, and the California Governor's Committee on the Employment of Disabled Persons, the project formed a consortium to support this population.

They discovered many of their constituents were living in isolation, or were disenfranchised. The consortium determined that not all Asian Pacific Islander communities are alike, they can't be lumped together and don't necessarily want to intermingle. To bridge the cultural and language differences, the consortium hired translators, because English was not spoken across all groups.

The Conference had the strong support of many Asian/Pacific Island attorneys in Los Angeles and Oakland and was publicized on community oriented Web sites, as well as through mailings. Churches, community organizations and service agencies also spread the word. The first Conference drew 575 attendees.

A second conference brought another 550 people together. The second conference entitled, "*Facing Forward: Creating Disability Pride in our API Communities*" subsequently resulted in the publishing of a

paper. "Asian and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities: Where Do We Fit In and Where Do We Go From Here?" is generating ongoing conversation and coalition building.

For more information, contact Erica Jones, Project Director, at ericaj@pdbtac.com or (510) 848-2980.

Section D.

Applying New Social Marketing Techniques That Work

D1

In 2002, the **Colorado Assistive Technology Project: Developing Colorado's Consumer Responsive System** implemented a statewide Integrated Services Model designed to build local capacity with assistive technologies.

For more information, contact Cathy Bodine, Project Director, at cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu or (303) 315-1281.

D2

The **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)** Information Dissemination Project held a Town Meeting on November 15, 2002, titled: "Arthritis & Disabilities: Does society do enough, care enough, spend enough?"

This was the first Town Meeting held representing local, state, and national perspectives on this health-care issue. Held in Columbia, Missouri, the Town Meeting drew more than 100 people from across the state, including people with arthritis and/or disabilities, health-care providers, professionals in the arthritis/disability fields and public policy makers. Drawing such a cross-cutting audience provided a unique opportunity for people with arthritis, advocates and health-care experts to discuss the issues informally.

For more information, contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

D3

In 2002, the staff of the **Missouri Model Spinal Cord Injury System** updated and expanded its *Community Resources Directory* — a directory designed to help patients overcome knowledge barriers which could delay a successful transition to life after inpatient rehabilitation.

A paper copy of the directory is given to individuals with a recent spinal cord injury as they prepare to be discharged from inpatient care at Rusk Rehabilitation Center in Columbia, MO.

"Becoming paralyzed is hard to adjust to," said Antoinne Jones, a MOMSCIS employee who worked on updating the directory. "I should know — I've been in a wheelchair for eight years. When you get home from rehabilitation you become more depressed and start to wonder what you're going to do with the rest of your life. That's where the Community Resources Directory becomes so useful."

For more information, view the link to the online version of the directory: **http://www.muhealth.org/~momscis/resource.htm**

Section E.

Achieving a Unique Impact Through a Specific Dissemination Activity

E1

The **Arkansas Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)** helped to give people with disabilities the tools and the self-esteem needed to find employment. One woman was able to find employment in the data processing field, another woman with right side hemiplegia was able to seek employment and has had a job interview. A 19 year-old man who is quadriplegic, was helped by the SEAT team (an acronym for Successful Employment through Assistive Technology, a component of ICAN). They assessed his vocational needs, evaluated and recommended AT devices, and facilitated vocational goals.

ICAN also provided ideas and tools to modify workplaces. For example, the car of a 24 year-old reporter with spina bifida was fitted with a car topper — a device that mechanically loads and unloads a wheelchair — improving her mobility while on assignment.

For more information, contact Barbara Gullett, Project Director, at bmgullett@ars.state.ar.us or (501) 666-8868.

E2

In 2002, **The Braille Power Reader Program**, a NIDRR Field Initiated Project at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), has shared its success with over 30,000 SAIC engineers, scientists, and technicians via articles published on the company's intranet and in the sector newsletter. SAIC, a Fortune 500 company, is the largest employee-owned research and engineering company in the United States providing information technology, systems integration and eSolutions worldwide.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Rosenfeld at elizabeth.rosenfeld@saic.com or (703) 276-3129.

E3

Two hundred fifty participants represented educational entities, state government personnel and private industry at the "Information Technology Accessibility and Usability, Policies and Tools" event in Albany, New York.

The **Northeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center** collaborated with the New York State Forum on Information Resource Management, New York State Office for Technology and New York State Office of Advocates for Persons with Disabilities to host this event — featuring a panel discussion on future directions and presentations on issues such as the Section 508 regulations and the use of accessible Information Technology.

For more information, contact Andrea Haenlin Mott, Project Director, at ah45@cornell.edu or (607) 255-8348.

E4

The **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Prosthetics and Orthotics** of Chicago, Illinois selected 12 people in El Salvador, Central America, to field test the "Shape and Roll" prosthetic foot.

The "Shape & Roll" foot, developed in cooperation with the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) Chicago and the NIDRR project, **Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Improved Access for Land Mine Survivors**, intends to provide amputees with higher functionality than prosthetic feet produced currently in disadvantaged countries.

The selected participants were evaluated, fitted with new prosthetics, and were asked to provide input through questionnaires and gait evaluations.

For more information, contact Jan Little, Project Director, Resource Unit for Information & Education at reiu@northwestern.edu or (312) 238-6500.

E5

The **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (RRTCADD)** has successfully collaborated with the American Society on Aging (ASA) to educate service providers, policy makers, and researchers in the aging and health care fields about the unique age-related needs of older adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

The quarterly newsletter of the ASA's Network on Environments, Services, and Technologies to Maximize Independence, *Maximizing Human Potential*, devoted its Winter 2001-02 issue to the outcomes of the RRTCADD's "Invitational Research Symposium: Promoting Healthy Aging, Family Support, and Age-Friendly Communities for Persons Aging with Developmental Disabilities." The newsletter reaches more than 700 individuals.

For more information, contact Alan Factor, Associate Director for Training and Dissemination, at afactor@uic.edu or (312) 413-1510.

E6

For over a decade, the NIDRR-supported **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision** has provided nearly 150 rehabilitation counseling graduate students and practitioners with specialized training in the field of blindness rehabilitation through its academic certificate program entitled, "Vision Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation."

Funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, this intensive 10-week program is the only one of its kind in the country. The purpose of the program is to provide graduate students in rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation practitioners with the expertise to address issues and techniques unique to vision disabilities.

Of the academic certificate program graduates in 2002, Nine out of the ten are serving blind clients in state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the blind.

For more information, contact Kelly Schaefer, at schaefer@ra.msstate.edu or (662) 325-7825.

E7

Parents of children with emotional and behavioral challenges — as well as the professionals who work with the child and family — express a high degree of need for information about children's mental health disabilities and effective treatment options. The **Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health** responded to this need by producing and placing on its Web site a tutorial called "eResearch: Finding and Evaluating Internet-Based Information."

In essence, this web tutorial has expanded the reach of the RTC's technical assistance efforts by helping people learn how to access and evaluate information for themselves.

For more information on the tutorial, see:
http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/pgeResearchMain.shtml

E8

The **Learning and Transfer of Prosthetic Control** project (at San Francisco State University) hosted the July 2002 meeting of the Bay Area *Stumps 'R Us* organization, a support group for amputees, their families and caregivers, and professionals working with amputees such as prosthetists and physicians. During this meeting, staff of Learning and Transfer of Prosthetic Control presented research carried out with their prosthetic simulator, and then gave those attending a chance to use the simulator.

After the meeting, the President of *Stumps 'R Us*, Dan Sorkin, sent a letter of thanks to the project staff which included the following: "The work done with the Upper Extremity Simulator was fascinating and in my opinion practical and describes a need in the amputation community. I look forward to working with the lab in its future refinement of the much needed devices to aid amputees and their caregivers."

For more information, contact Steve Wallace, at saw@sfsu.edu or (415) 338-6984.

E9

In November 2002, the **University of Illinois at Chicago National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability's** *Self-Determination Framework for People with Psychiatric Disabilities* was featured in the "PSR Connections" newsletter published by the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services.

Through this newsletter article, over 3,000 individuals or organizations were reached regarding concepts of self-determination for people with psychiatric disabilities.

For more on this, review *The Framework* at:
http://www.psych.uic.edu/UICNRTC/sdframework.pdf

Section F.
Obtaining Individual Benefits Through Utilization of Disseminated Information

F1

Adult education students with learning disabilities shared their unique informational needs to learn how assistive technologies can help address their learning styles and literacy goals through **Assistive Technology and Adult Literacy: Bridging the Gap for Adults with Learning Disabilities**.

Participants in this project have engaged in several focus groups and have shared written stories with each other. The participants are practicing group presentations highlighting literacy and technology learning for upcoming professional adult learning conferences.

Participants show that action research can be an engine for positive changes in participants' lives and self-concepts through the process, not just the final products, of a research effort.

Asked how it feels to be co-researchers, participants responded:

- "It's exciting!"
- "It makes me feel like I am part of something bigger, like we are helping others."
- "It feels good to be learning beside you, like we are on the same level."
- "I feel like we are spreading the ideas."

For more information, contact Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, NIDRR Fellow, at Heidi.Silver-Pacuilla@pima.edu or (520) 457-2407.

F2

Participants in the **Determining the Effectiveness of a Capacity-Building Program for Individuals with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) Empowerment Project** improved community integration through increased contacts with the local Center for Independent Living, the local CFS association, the CFS community, and the larger community.

This enabled them to find greater supports and access many different services and products for coping with CFS.

For more information, contact Stefanie Maxwell, at maxwells@uic.edu or (312) 996-6594.

F3

In 2002, the **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)** Exercise and Self-Management Program for Persons with Arthritis produced significant individual benefits through its work. The program is designed to teach people with arthritis how to develop their own exercise program enabling them to exercise safely in their own communities.

Of the 241 participants, 180 (75 percent) responded to a survey following participation in the program.

For more information, contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

F4

The **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)** Training in Careers (ARCTIC) Project (**http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/~arctic**) uses a team approach to work with people with arthritis who are referred to the project by Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

With counseling, clients are overcoming social phobias and confidence issues that hold them back in their desire to pursue vocational and avocational interests.

For more information, contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

F5

The collaboration between the **Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership** and Health and Human Services helped a man who has quadraparesis to move back into his home.

Through the project, there were on-site assessments to identify solutions that would meet the client's needs and were cost effective. The project also helped secure funding to cover the cost of the solutions.

"I am so grateful that the Assistive Technology Partnership helped us. I'm finally at home. I could have never come home without their help. It means so much, not only to me, but also to my entire family. You'll never know how much these individuals and this agency have impacted my life for the better," the man said.

For more information, contact Nancy Noha, Information Specialist, at nnoha@atp.state.ne.us or (402) 471-3647.

F6

The **New York State Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID)** assists people through the thirteen regional technology centers located across the state.

In 2002, one of the project's regional center directors conducted an outreach in-service on switches and communication for therapists working with infants and toddlers in a very rural region of New York. After the in-service, the therapists reported using the information when working with three children to communicate consistently through simple switching and eye gaze boards.

The therapists have been so impressed with the progress made that they are now working on obtaining personal augmentative communication devices on a permanent basis for these children.

For more information, contact Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski, Acting Project Manager, at lrosano@oapwd.org or (518) 474-2825.

F7

Oklahoma ABLE Tech Assistive Technology Project of Oklahoma has, in the first year of the Alternative Financing Program grant, secured 49 loans with private funds.

The low-interest loans helped many people in need. For example, a single mother with a teenage boy who uses a wheelchair was able to purchase a van with a motorized wheelchair lift. A man with multiple sclerosis bought a modified van and took a driving course, allowing him to enjoy mobility and freedom. Others have bought needed computers, mobility aids, home modifications, and hearing aids.

For more information, contact Brenda Unruh Dawes, Marketing and Web Manager, at blunruh@okstate.edu or (405) 285-1882.

F8

A 20-year-old legally-blind sophomore at the University of Missouri - Columbia (UMC), majoring in Agriculture Education, visited Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH in December 2002 to participate in Franklin Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Successful People: Training the Trainers* event. He was one of two students (and the only participant from the Midwest) selected to join Dartmouth College faculty and staff members to participate in training. He was certified and returned to Missouri to train faculty, university staff, and other students on the University of Missouri campus to become more effective people in their personal and professional lives.

The **Preparing Avenues for Competitive Employment in Information Technology (PACE-IT)** project facilitated his participation in the Franklin Covey training event.

For the first time, the University of Missouri - Columbia (through PACE-IT) is a licensed training site for "Seven Habits." He now plans to offer the effectiveness training to interested faculty, staff and students at UMC.

For more information, contact Andy Knoop, at knoopa@missouri.edu or (573) 884-3025.

F9

One unique aspect of the **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (RRTCADD)** Family Future Planning project is the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the future planning process. This is done through conducting groups specifically geared towards people with developmental disabilities, emphasizing choice and self-determination, and employing co-facilitators with developmental disabilities. Through technical assistance from the project, one group organized their own *People First* chapter at the completion of RRTC workshops. One of the individuals who participated in the RRTCADD Future Planning project was elected president of the chapter, and several other individuals have gone to statewide conferences. Over a year later the group is still meeting and continues to grow.

Also, a parent who participated in the RRTCADD Family Future Planning Project has assisted her son in pursuing his dreams. While she has always been a very supportive parent, participating in the project helped foster communication about the future and her son's dreams of dating and becoming more independent.

In addition, a sibling of an individual with developmental disabilities participated in the RRTCADD Family Future Planning project on behalf of her 100 year-old father who was still providing care to her brother at home. She helped her father prepare a will and set up a special needs trust.

For more information, contact Alan Factor, Associate Director for Training and Dissemination, at afactor@uic.edu or (312) 413-1510.

F10

Through the Health Promotion Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities fitness and health education program, research program participants and their support persons reported successful physical and psychological outcomes as a result of their involvement in the health promotion project. The project is at the University of Illinois at Chicago within the **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (RRTCADD)**.

The father of one participant stated "Your program was the catalyst that initiated (my son's) recovery."

A female participant stated that she liked the Center-based fitness and education program because it gave her "a clear mind and a clear soul to lose weight and be well mentally and physically."

For more information, contact Alan Factor, Associate Director for Training and Dissemination, at afactor@uic.edu or (312) 413-1510.

F11

The **Rehabilitative Services for Persons with Emergent Disabilities** project hosted a work internship for a person with a violently acquired spinal cord injury. The internship offered the intern an opportunity to develop and test out vocational skills in an accessible and collaborative environment.

The highlight of the three months internship period was a peer-to-peer brief that the intern prepared, and which was disseminated in electronic and paper form over the past months. The brief contains findings from interviews with young people with violently acquired injuries, and focuses on the changes in interpersonal relationships.

For more information, see: **http://www.nrhchdr.org/Peer-to-Peer.pdf** or contact Thilo Kroll at thilo.kroll@medstar.net or (202) 466-1915.

F12

Through the **Vermont Assistive Technology Project** a seventh grade student with Cerebral Palsy, along with her team of educators, received direction and training about AT devices to improve her school day and educational experience.

She can now move through the halls by operating her power wheelchair with a joystick. Also, she uses an alternative keyboard and text-to-speech software to communicate more effectively. Using the new technology to write, she received a writing award from the

University of Vermont — an inclusive standard award program not focusing on students with special needs.

For more information, contact Gail P Koehler, at gailpk@dad.state.vt.us or (802) 241-2671.

Who's In The News

The NCDDR staff is always on the lookout for popular and disability media pieces that present research funded by NIDRR. Since 2000, *The Research Exchange* has published instances of NIDRR-funded projects receiving media attention. This section summarizes reports that were included in 2002 issues of the NCDDR's *The Research Exchange*.

NCDDR took the opportunity to go back and talk to the individual projects to find out more about how the news came to be published.

The following comments about news coverage are from:

- **Peter Blanck** — RRTC on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities
- **Susanne Bruyére** — RRTC for Economic Research on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities
- **Danielle Dreilinger** — RRTC on State Systems and Employment
- **Anne Henry** — RERC: Improved Technology Access for Land Mine Survivors
- **Kim Lathbury** — Shepherd Center
- **James Schmeling** — RRTC on Workforce Investment and Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities
- **William G. (Bill) Stothers** — The Center for an Accessible Society
- **Mary Watkins** — Access to Digital Television

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Question 1.

How did the reporter(s)/publication(s) hear about you?

Mary Watkins:
I understand the reporter was aware of NCAM's work in the area of access technologies, and likely found other articles related to the work in the course of his research.

Peter Blanck:
The reporters and publications found out about us based on our prior work and research which has been covered in many mainstream media outlets.

Susanne Bruyére:
Bill Stothers came to me with a timely idea - based on recent September 11th events and a good sense that there was an immediate information need for this target audience. I went to the contacts I have within the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), "pitched" our idea, and looked for appropriate avenues (publication options and their editorial contact), and he followed up on our behalf and drafted a story.

Kim Lathbury:
The *Journal Constitution* is the local paper, so most writers are familiar with our projects. Almost a year before the story printed, I pitched the idea of a story on assistive technology and adapted driving to the personal technology writer.

Anne Henry:
Generally we send out press releases with some regularity to our bank of Chicago journalists. In addition, we maintain good relationships with a few key journalists.

Question 2.

Has the reporter had any additional contact? Have you had additional press coverage?

Watkins:
I continue to send the reporter press releases and pitches about projects underway at WGBH's Media Access Group.

Bruyére:
We have had quite a few follow-up informational inquiries, based on the article.

Lathbury:
A couple of months later the reporter did a story on pop-up windows on Web pages and how cumbersome they can be for users. He remembered one of our assistive technology staff members indicating how difficult pop-ups are for people using voice-recognition software, because these types of windows will not close upon voice command. As a result, he called us again and asked for a quote.

Also, since the story was sent out on Cox News Wire services, it was picked up by 8 other newspapers: The *Palm Beach Post*, FL; the *News Observer*, Raleigh, NC; *Waco Tribune-Herald*, TX; *Daily Advance*, Elizabeth City, NC; The *Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, CO; The *Lufkin Daily News*, TX; *Daily Reflector*, Greenville, NC; and the *Bulletin*, Bend, OR.

Henry:
We often get more press as a result of stories — someone will see something that was done a few months ago and want to delve deeper into that topic, or branch out in a certain direction.

Question 3.

How would you recommend a grantee go about gaining media attention?

Watkins:
I find it helpful to subscribe to listservs such as **http://www.distance-educator.com/**, the Benton Foundation's Digital Divide news digest and news digest lists run by consumer organizations (such as the American Council of the Blind) and by individuals (such as USA-L, with digest news items related to deafness from around the world). Much can be gained from learning what newspapers and magazines have run articles on disability related issues, and follow-up with the various reporters/writers has yielded results in the way of contacts and placements.

Blanck:
We would recommend writing articles and publishing them in respected journals. Articles in peer-reviewed journals receive attention from the media.

Danielle Dreilinger:
Be responsive to the reporter's needs/interests/schedule and keep following up.

Lathbury:
Try to imagine opening the newspaper or watching the news and seeing a story on your program or service. What about it would capture the attention of the biggest audience? How will you answer 'what's in it for me?' Look beyond just one group of people to see who else may benefit from knowing this information. Be prepared to have a person with a disability (non-employee) provide personal testimony about the program or service because every reporter wants to humanize their stories. Remain objective. If you had no association with the organization you work for, would you be interested in this story?

Henry:
Persistent press releases and media calls, and when you get a piece somewhere, get to know everyone involved in that piece (i.e., the reporter, the editor, the news desk manager).

William G. Stothers:
There is no shortcut. First, it is important to "read" the media - newspapers, magazines, radio and TV. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment and look at your own project and work. What would any particular news organization find newsworthy in your project? Using this info, think about how you could describe your work for your local newspaper of TV station. Then make contact with the reporter.

Find out how they like to receive information - and then provide it to them. Offer to answer any questions they may have about your work, and offer also to be a resource on other topics within your area of expertise. In short, make yourself available to reporters in a timely way, and try to couch your work in ways that will catch their interest.

Question 4.

Do you feel the media attention was a positive experience?

Watkins:
Yes. The challenge of overcoming barriers to access must be addressed from various perspectives. Coverage in the press helps spur awareness, which leads to companies and individuals learning about the issues of access for people with disabilities, and many voluntary efforts. All of this combines to move the ball forward.

Lathbury:
Absolutely. Of course there are many other facets of the story that we would have like to incorporate. But we always realize that the editor has to be conscious of space and the interest level of his/her readers.

Question 5.

What was your over-all experience with the media?

Watkins:
Talking to a reporter who understands the issue is a pleasure. Pitching a reporter who doesn't builds character. Luckily, there have been far more of the former than the latter.

Bruyére:
Very positive. Even though occasionally our experience has been that things can be misquoted, overall it has been very positive.

Lathbury:
Overall I have pretty good experiences when working with the media. I think many people who have negative experiences expect TV stories to run 10 mins. on their product, service, program, etc. It just doesn't work that way. We are in an era of short, to-the-point news in which people want to know what's in it for them. So we're excited if our name and at least one of our key messages get across in any medium.

Henry:
We usually get great pieces out of the interviews and events that we have.

James Schmeling:
Our experiences with the media have been positive. It is important to take time with the reporters to make sure they understand the issues well enough to write about them and convey the meaning of the research accurately. Media attention often leads to better contacts within and external to our University, and sometimes leads to new collaborations.

Question 6.

Do you feel consumers have a better understanding of NIDRR-funded grants as a result?

Watkins:
Yes. The key to creating awareness of research projects, and garnering recognition of NIDRR's role in so many of the innovative products and guidelines that have been created is reaching the mainstream press. With so many children educated in mainstream settings, obtaining coverage by mainstream press outlets will be the key to sharing with people who can use that knowledge to take advantage of better educational and professional opportunities. This is the way the Dept. of Education serves people of all ages and all abilities.

Henry:
Our media outreach is a way to explain very succinctly, and interestingly, what it is we do and what we are trying to accomplish.

Schmeling:
Broad exposure in the media permits better understanding of NIDRR-funded grants to audiences who would not read academic journals unless they saw the article profiled in mainstream media. It serves as a gateway to the research, as well as explaining the research in layperson's terms.

Success Stories 2002

NIDRR Grantee and Staff Recognition

The following entries were reported to the NCDDR and included in Volume 7.1, 7.2, or 7.3 of *The Research Exchange* during 2002.

Thomas Bird, MD, received the *George W. Jacoby Award* from the American Neurological Association and presented the Jacoby Lecture October 1, 2001 at the Association's 126th annual meeting. Dr. Bird is a professor of neurology and medicine, chief of the Division of Neurogenetics in the Department of Neurology and serves on the research faculty in geriatrics at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System. He also collaborates with UC Davis School of Medicine clinical professors on the research project, "Risks and Benefits of Genetic Testing in Persons with Hereditary Neuromuscular Disease," funded by NIDRR through the **RRTC in Neuromuscular Diseases (RRTC/NMD)**, in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The *Jacoby Award* is presented every third year to an American Neurological Association member who has done especially meritorious experimental work. Dr. Bird is honored for his studies of hereditary neurological disorders including ataxias, Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathy, Huntington's disease and spastic paraplegia. At the Jacoby Lecture, he discussed ethical issues in neurogenetics that are emerging from genomic neurology and that will confront most neurologists in the near future.

For further information, contact Dr. Kathryn Devereaux of the RRTC/NMD by email: kdevereaux@ucdavis.edu

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Dr. Bird can be reached at (206) 764-2308 or tomnroz@u.washington.edu
News of Dr. Bird's research may be found at the following Web sites:
http://www.rehabinfo.net/RRTC/Newsletters/ProgramOverview99/GeneticTesting.html

http://www.geneclinics.org/profiles/cmt/

http://depts.washington.edu/neurogen/

The **Southeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (Southeast DBTAC)** is the proud recipient of the *2001 Citation Group Award* presented on April 26, 2001, by the South Carolina International Association of Personnel in Employment Security (IAPES) at its annual convention. The SE DBTAC was nominated for its provision of training, technical assistance and information resources on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.

"They have assisted us in every way possible to provide a leadership role to employers, people with disabilities, governmental entities, and other organizations. As a result, we have developed a successful statewide infrastructure that creates pubic awareness of the ADA, disseminates accurate information, and provides quality technical assistance and training." The SE DBTAC is deeply appreciative of this recognition, and the beautiful plaque hangs proudly on the main entrance wall.

For more information, contact Pamela Williamson, Assistant Director, pam.willamson@catea.org or Shelley Kaplan, Project Director, sedbtac@catea.org

Mitchell Rosenthal, Ph.D., was chosen as the first recipient of the internationally recognized *Robert L. Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Research and Rehabilitation*. The prize was presented to Dr. Rosenthal at the second annual Galveston Brain Injury Conference, November 2-4, 2001. The Conference was sponsored by The University of Texas Medical Branch and The Transitional Learning Center of Galveston.

Dr. Rosenthal was selected for this award based on significant contributions in brain injury research over 26 years, including work in the NIDRR-funded **Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems** program for the last ten years. He has served as Project Director of the **TBI National Data Center** since 1993, which is housed in the Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation. Dr. Rosenthal has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, abstracts, and book chapters, serves as senior editor of the leading scientific journal in the field, *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, and is a founding member of the Brain Injury Association.

Upon receiving news of his distinguished honor, Dr. Rosenthal stated, "This recognition provides strong encouragement to continue my efforts to conduct and promote research which leads to a better understanding of how individuals with brain injury and their families are impacted by a severe brain injury and what rehabilitation interventions are most effective in maximizing recovery, independence in the community, and the highest possible quality of life."

The *Moody Prize* is named after Robert L. Moody, whose sustained personal dedication after his son sustained a brain injury has created a legacy of clinical accomplishment in rehabilitation education, service and research. The prize builds awareness of the significant public health implications of brain injury and aims to increase national and international awareness of the need to expand research and improve treatment for persons who have experienced brain injury. The *Robert L. Moody Prize* is administered by a board of governors and awards are considered by a panel of experts.

For more information, contact Dr. Rosenthal by email: mrosenthal@kmrrec.org

William Kennedy Smith, M.D., was invited to participate as one of four panelists at a Chicago-based *National Town Hall Meeting* sponsored by the United Nations on October 11, 2001. Dr. Smith is the PI for the **RERC: Improved Technology Access for Land Mine Survivors**. He is director of the Center for International Rehabilitation and President of Physicians Against Land Mines (PALM).

National Town Hall meetings were held in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Seattle, St. Louis and Tampa, starting at 9:00 AM Pacific Standard Time to 12:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. These events were designed to allow the American people to engage in a direct conversation with the Secretary-General and their local communities about the impact of the terrible attacks of September 11th and the United Nations' role in the global fight against terrorism. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was the featured speaker (via satellite from New York) and Walter Cronkite was National Moderator.

For more information, contact Anne Henry, Communications Manager at the Center for International Rehabilitation: ahenry@cirnetwork.org or call her at (312) 926-0030.

Nancy Arnold, Ph.D., Director of Research for Employment and Economic Development Projects at the **Research and Training Center on Rural Rehabilitation (RTC: Rural)**, University of Montana, was selected as a recipient of a *2001 Congressional Black Caucus Veterans' Braintrust Award*, in conjunction with the 2001 Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. The *Veterans' Braintrust Award* was established by General Colin Powell in 1990 to recognize outstanding national commitment to black

veterans. The criteria of community service to further validate the role and contributions made on behalf of veterans' interests was added in later years.

Dr. Arnold has been a national leader in opening entrepreneurial opportunities for people with disabilities. She began her research on self-employment as an option for people with disabilities in 1983, has developed model state and national policies to increase such opportunities, and has worked to provide training and technical assistance to vocational rehabilitation professionals so they in turn help consumers maximize their business success.

For more information, contact Diana Spas, RTC: Rural Information Specialist by email: gargoyle@selway.umt.edu or call her at (406) 243-5760.

On July 26, 2001, the late **Dr. Leonard Kasday** was the recipient of the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from The International Coalition of Access Engineers and Specialists (ICAES). Dr. Kasday's work to improve the accessibility of the World Wide Web for all individuals with disabilities is well known throughout the country and the world. His accessibility checker, the "WAVE," is one of a select number of tools promoted by the government to assist Web designers in improving accessibility. In Pennsylvania, Dr. Kasday was instrumental in the development of standards and policies governing the accessibility of all State Web sites. He served as Chair for the Evaluation and Repair Tools Interest Group, World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative (W3C-WAI).

Dr. Kasday was a Universal Design Engineer at the Institute on Disabilities/UCE at Temple University. He worked with **Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)**, funded by NIDRR through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and with the **RERC on Communication Enhancement (AAC-RERC)**. He joined the Institute after retiring from a 22-year career at AT&T.

Doing "IT" Right, the PIAT Statewide Conference About Access to Electronic and Information Technology (IT) for People with Disabilities, held November 7-8, 2001, in Harrisburg, PA, was dedicated in memory of Dr. Kasday. The Institute on Disabilities/UCE established an assistantship in his memory as well. Contact Amy Goldman, Project Director of PIAT, for further information: piat@astro.ocis.temple.edu

ICAES is a non-profit membership organization with a mission to foster international cooperation and support for the design of products that are as accessible and usable by persons with disabilities, as economically possible, and technically feasible. Several representatives from NIDRR grantees serve on the ICAES Board of Directors. The purpose of the International Access Engineering Awards Program is to recognize significant innovative technical contributions to the access engineering profession. For more information, visit **http://www.icaes.org/**

Dr. Paul Wehman, Principal Investigator of the **RRTC on Workplace Supports**, was the recipient of the *Distinguished Service Award* on September 6, 2001, at the 2001 Convocation at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). This award honors his twenty-five years of service to people with disabilities, including his revolutionary work in the area of supported employment for those with severe disabilities. A ceremony honoring all faculty members, the Convocation has been an annual event at VCU since 1982. Each year four professors receive Distinguished Faculty Awards in the areas of teaching, research, service, and overall excellence.

For further information contact Valerie Brooke by email: vbrooke@saturn.vcu.edu or by telephone: (804) 828-1851.

The American Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (AAPR) has awarded the *2001 Alice Fordyce Public Service Award* to **William A. Anthony, Ph.D.**, Executive Director and founder of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR), Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University. This award recognizes his lifelong work in the field of psychiatric rehabilitation as a researcher, educator, and clinician. The award was presented to Dr. Anthony at the AAPR's 10th Annual United Nations Award Luncheon on March 13, 2002, in New York City. There are currently four NIDRR-funded projects housed at the CPR, including the RRTC in Rehabilitation for Persons with Long-term Mental Illness. For more information, contact Dr. William Anthony at wanthony@bu.edu

Tom Seekins, Ph.D., Director of the **Research and Training Center on Rural Rehabilitation (RTC: Rural)**, University of Montana, was awarded the first *Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy*. The award was presented to Dr. Seekins at the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Seventh Annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living in Portland, Oregon, November 3-5, 2001.

The award has been established by APRIL and Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) in Houston, Texas, in honor of the late Earl Walden, long time colleague and friend to APRIL and ILRU. Walden was instrumental in assisting APRIL in its early days of growth. APRIL, a nonprofit organization, is a national network of rural independent living centers that focus on rural independent living issues. For more information on the award and APRIL, contact Linda Gonzales, Executive Director, at (330) 678-7648 or visit their Web site at **http://april.umt.edu/**

For further information, contact Diana Spas, RTC: Rural Information Specialist at gargoyle@selway.umt.edu or call her at (406) 243-5760.

Two University of Pittsburgh researchers were recognized as *2002 Health Care Heroes* by the Pittsburgh Business Times at a March 7, 2002 awards ceremony in Pittsburgh. **Michael L. Boninger, M.D.**, Director of the **Center for Assistive Technology (CAT)**, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Health System, was awarded the *Health Care Innovation and Research Award*, one of six *Health Care Hero* Award categories. The *Lifetime Achievement Award* winner was **Dr. Clifford Brubaker**, Dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Pitt. The annual awards are given in recognition of "outstanding people and organizations that are making significant strides in the local health care field."

Dr. Boninger's research and work at the CAT have helped establish the Center as a "leader and innovator in the assistive technology industry" and as "the world's premier clinic providing technology for people with disabilities." He is currently the Research Director for the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the Medical Director for the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL). Dr. Boninger is Principal Investigator for two NIDRR-funded projects, the **University of Pittsburgh Model Center on Spinal Cord Injury** and **Collaboration on Upper Limb Pain in Spinal Cord Injury**. Contact Dr. Boninger: mlboning@pitt.edu

Dr. Brubaker is described by his colleagues "as an educator, community leader, inventor and creator of disciplines." For over thirty years he has been involved in "refining a multidisciplinary educational and research model to address the full spectrum of rehabilitation. His educational model is now setting the standard for rehabilitation training programs throughout the world." He is currently Co-Principal Investigator for the NIDRR-funded **RERC on Wheeled Mobility**, and PI for the **Research Training in Rehabilitation Science with Special Emphasis on Disability Studies project**. Contact Dr. Brubaker: ceb1+@pitt.edu

Read these online articles, with free registration for the online Pittsburgh Business Times:
http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2002/03/04/daily41.html
Six local health care professionals recognized

http://pittsburgh.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2002/03/18/focus2.html
Innovation and Research Award: Michael Boninger

http://pittsburgh.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2002/03/18/focus6.html
Lifetime Achievement Award: Clifford Brubaker

Marian Minor, P.T., Ph.D., a researcher and principal investigator with the **Missouri Arthritis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (MARRTC)**, was the recent recipient of the *Virginia P. Engalitcheff Award for Impact on Quality of Life*. The award was presented by the Arthritis Foundation during the foundation's National Meeting on November 17, 2001, in San Jose, California. The award recognizes "a specific achievement by an individual, organization, product or body of research that makes a dramatic impact on the quality of life for people with arthritis." Dr. Minor's extensive contributions both nationally and internationally in the form of research, publications, presentations, development of educational materials, and development of community-based exercise facilities have made a substantial impact on the lives of people with arthritis. Dr. Minor, a physical therapist, is an Associate Professor in the School of Health Professions at the University of Missouri-Columbia. See full story on the MARRTC Web site:
http://www.muhealth.org/~arthritis/spotlight/minor5.html

Dr. Minor can be reached at minorm@health.missouri.edu or (573) 882-1579.

Karen Smarr, a senior research specialist with **MARRTC**, was named *2001 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year* by the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP) during an awards ceremony on August 24, 2001, at the national convention of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco. The CCPTP is a non-profit organization that represents about 75 doctoral programs in counseling psychology. Presented by the CCPTP, the annual award is given based on "evidence of quality scholarly contributions, professional contributions, distinctiveness of such contributions and the student's promise as a future scholar-professional." Ms. Smarr is the first University of Missouri-Columbia student to receive the award since its inauguration in 1997. An online story is available at: **http://www.muhealth.org/~arthritis/spotlight/smarr2.html**
Smarr can be reached at (573) 814-6000, ext. 3679 or by email at smarr.Karen@columbia-mo.va.gov

For more information on MARRTC items contact Dianna Borsi O'Brien, MARRTC Senior Information Specialist, at obriendi@missouri.edu or (573) 882-2914.

David R. Gater, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Co-Director of the **University of Michigan Model Spinal Cord Injury Care System**, received *Best Poster Presentation by a Career Development Awardee* at the National Veterans Administration RR&D Meeting in Arlington, VA. He received the award on February 12, 2002, at the conference "Rehabilitation Research for the 21st Century: The New Challenge," sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Research and Development Office, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service.

On February 28, 2002, Dr. Gater received the *Young Academician Award* from the Association of Academic Physiatrists, at the Annual Conference held in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Gater was honored "for excellence in teaching, research and academic administration."

For additional information, contact David Gater at (734) 936-7210 or dgater@umich.edu

George Kraft, M.D., M.S., Director and Principal Investigator of the **University of Washington's Multiple Sclerosis RTC,** received the *Distinguished Academician* award at the annual Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) conference in Las Vegas. Each year the award is presented to an AAP member "who has achieved distinction and peer recognition regionally or nationally by virtue of excellence as a teacher, researcher and/or administrator."

Dr. Kraft is professor of rehabilitation medicine, Director of the Western Multiple Sclerosis Center and Electrodiagnostic Medicine and co-director of the UW Medical Center Muscular Dystrophy Clinic. He has served as chief of staff at the UW Medical Center.

For more information, please contact George Kraft: ghkraft@u.washington.edu, (206) 543-7272 or Carolyne Dollar, Research Program Manager: dollar@u.washington.edu, (206) 221-5302.

David F. Apple, Jr., M.D., Principal Investigator for the **Georgia Regional Spinal Cord Injury Care System**, was honored as *AAOS Humanitarian of the Year* by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). Presented at the 69th annual conference in Dallas, the award recognized "his support of people with physical disabilities by providing care for their injures and advocating for their transition back to the community."

"Dr. Apple's efforts to incorporate rehabilitation as mainstream in the orthopaedic curriculum and in the orthopaedic life in our country have been unceasing and effective," said Angus McBryde, M.D., professor, department of orthopaedic surgery at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Apple gave a $5,000 award from AAOS to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, where he serves as medical director. He left his private practice to work with the Shepherd family to develop the spinal cord injury rehabilitation center in 1975.

For more information, please contact Kim Lathbury, Media Relations Manager, (404) 350-7708 or kim_lathbury@shepherd.org

The *Harry J. Murphy Catalyst Award* was presented to **Judy Brewer**, Director of the **Web Accessibility Initiative at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**, during the CSUN Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities. The Conference was held March 18-23, 2002, in Los Angeles. Ms. Brewer is the second recipient of the award sponsored by the Trace R&D Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "created to help identify, acknowledge, and honor those who bring people together and facilitate the efforts of others in the field of technology and disability."

This biennial award is presented at the annual conference that was founded by Dr. Harry J. Murphy. Dr. Murphy was the first recipient of the Catalyst Award. The CSUN Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities has become preeminent in its field, and is a meeting place for people from around the world who are interested in improving the lives of people with disabilities.

For more information, contact Judy Brewer at jbrewer@w3.org or Kate Vanderheiden, Trace Center, at (608) 263-1156 or email: vanderk@trace.wisc.edu

Judi Rogers, a mother with a disability, activist and author, has earned the nation's highest honor for community health leadership: the *2002 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program Award.* Rogers is a staff member at Through the Looking Glass, a Berkeley, CA nonprofit organization that houses the NIDRR-funded **National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities**. Rogers was selected

among 463 nominees for this year's award. She was honored at a ceremony on September 24, 2002, in Washington, D.C. where she received the $120,000 award - $105,000 for program enhancement at Through the Looking Glass, and $15,000 as a personal award. Trained as an occupational therapist, Rogers specializes in developing adaptive babycare equipment as well as pregnancy and birthing issues for women with disabilities.

For more information, contact: Megan Kirshbaum at megan_kirshbaum@lookingglass.org or Paul Preston at ppreston@lookingglass.org or call (800) 644-2666 or (510) 848-1112.

Thank You

to all of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Projects who submitted information for inclusion in *Success Stories 2002* from The National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR).

Success Stories 2002 was produced by the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) under grant H133A990008-A from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).

The NCDDR assists, through information and technical assistance, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research grantees with identifying and crafting dissemination strategies. These strategies are designed to meet the needs of a grantee's unique target audience. NCDDR also analyzes and reports on dissemination trends relevant to disability research.

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